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November 16, 2004

Response to Office Action Summary: Application No. 10/622,987 Applicant: Cronan, Shanna Marie

Specification:

- 1) Please see the attached copy of my application for United States Letters Patent with the requested correction of the term velcro to VELCRO™.

Claim Objection:

- 2) Please see correction of velcro to VELCRO™ in claim 6, line 2 and claim 13, line 2.
- 3) I would like to make a small change to claims 15-16. Where we said it was a method of claim 1, it could be a method of claim 8 or claim 14. Please see the change on the attached copy of the application with claims 15-16 as a method of claim 8.

Claims Rejection:

- 3) Re: Claims 1-3,5,8-10,12, and 15-17 as being anticipated by Sexton, I (US 4,934,024)
  - a) an indicator for indicating the optimal position and orientation for holding a device, a means for affixing the indicator to the device.

I have reviewed Sexton. It specifically states, "It is a moldable grip that ergonomically prevents repetitive trauma injuries to hands, specifically, carpal tunnel syndrome, for the ease of gripping, and to assist with gripping equipment with a prosthetic device. Sexton discusses at length the object of this device is to create a customized grip for an individual that decreases trauma to the user's hands and is easy to grip for those with decreased muscle strength and prosthetic devices. This is much different than my invention because the purpose of my invention is to guide or direct the equipment user to place and position his or her hands on the best place on the equipment so that he or she may use the equipment correctly and with the most safety. This place and position for the hands may vary from individual to individual. The hand position and orientation indicator can be applied to the equipment for an individual's safety or the manufacturer may want to add this extra safety feature as an extra quality assurance measure or as a product enhancement feature.

- b) wherein the indicator is shaped as one or more human hands

Sexton's invention is a three dimensional molded grip for a piece of equipment in the shape of a human hand made of a special thermoplastic material with the purpose of decreasing repetitive trauma injuries, and increase the ease of gripping equipment especially a prosthetic device.. Whereas my invention is a shape, it is not necessarily a three dimensional shape of hands. It can be a one dimensional shape of hands. It is not limited to the shape of hands. It can be a sign that indicates the proper place and position for the operator's hands on the equipment.

With respect to claims 8-10, 12 and 15-17

Please see the above arguments. Sexton's purpose in determining optimal position and orientation for holding a device and the shape of the molded hand grip, human hands is all related to preventing repetitive trauma injuries, i.e. carpal tunnel syndrome, easing gripping for people with weak muscles and prosthetic. The object of my invention is different as stated above.

6) McGowan (US 4,027,687) Claims 1,6,8, and 13

- a) an indicator (Fig. 16, tube 72) for indicating the optimal position and orientation for holding a device, a means of affixing the indicator to the device.

I have reviewed McGowan's patent. The purpose of McGowan's invention is to: 1) affix an attractive cover to the leg member of a piece of equipment to make the equipment look more attractive. 2) the cover is to protect the leg member with a cushioning material from impact injuries 3) to decrease the metal equipment's ability to conduct electricity and heat insulation. 4) It protects the user from wing nuts and bolt heads. The purpose of McGowan's invention is distinctly different from the purpose of my invention. The purpose of my invention is to guide or direct the equipment user to place and position his or her hands on the best place on the equipment so he or she may use the equipment correctly and with the most safety.

7) Sisko et al. (US 5,657,783) Claims 4, 7, 11, and 14

I have reviewed Sisko's invention. My invention is very different than Sisko's invention. My invention has applicability to any piece of equipment the hands may grip. The purpose of Sisko's invention is to provide a forearm pad on a walker that supports and helps stabilize the balance of an invalid or person with diminished arm strength or motor control of his or her arms while using a walker. My invention is different because is helpful to healthy and ill people. The purpose of my invention is to guide or direct the equipment user to place and position his or her hands on the best place on the equipment so he or she may use the equipment correctly and with the most safety. This is quite different than Sisko's invention.

11/17/04

Shanna Marie Cronan